

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0013] beginning at page 2, with the following amended paragraph [0013]:

[0013] It is another object of the present invention to provide a lining as described above that includes a high-temperature[[,]] resistant, high-density impact area on which incoming molten metal may impinge.

Please replace paragraph [0048] beginning at page 6, with the following amended paragraph [0048]:

[0048] A bonding composition, comprised of about 60-85% of refractory fines and 15-40% of a polymeric resin, finds advantageous application in bonding bricks 72. In one embodiment of the present invention, a bonding composition comprised of about 77% of fused alumina fines and about 22.5% of resol phenolic resin, together with minor amounts of carbon and a mixing aid finds advantageous application in the present invention. Epoxies, urethanes and other types of thermoplastic resins may also be used in forming the bonding composition. Some thermosetting resins may also find advantageous application. As will be appreciated, other combinations of refractory fines and resins may find advantageous application with the present invention. In this respect, any bonding composition having sufficient strength to bond and maintain refractory bricks 72 together as a structural sound component until [[caste]]cast in slab 110 may be used.

Please replace paragraph [0053] beginning at page 7, with the following amended paragraph [0053]:

[0053] According to another method of forming bottom lining 60, a pre-formed impact pad 70 is cast in placed in a mold, and cast slab 110 is cast around impact pad 70. ~~after~~After curing and setting, bottom lining 60 is removed from the mold and placed within ladle 40 as a pre-assembled unitary component.

Please replace paragraph [0059] beginning at page 8, with the following amended paragraph [0059]:

[0059] The present invention shall now be described with respect to a method of forming a pre-assembled, unitary bottom lining 60. FIG. 9 shows a mold 132 for forming a cylindrical bottom lining 60. An oval bottom lining 60 may be formed for use in lining an oval ladle may be formed in a similar fashion. Mold 132 is comprised of mating mold segments 134 that are semi-circular in shape. Each end of each mold section 134 includes an outwardly extending flange 136 that is adapted to mate with a flange 136 on the other mold section 134 so as to mate together. Conventional fasteners 142 extend through holes 144 in flanges 136 to join mold segments 134. Each mold section 134 is essentially a metal strip 146, shown in cross-section in FIG. 11, that is bent into a semi-cylindrical shape conforming to the desired shape of bottom lining 60. As best shown in FIG. 11, a channel 148 is attached to the interior surface of metal strip 146, preferably by welding. Channel 148 is dimensioned to form recess 118 in slab 110. Mold 132 includes a portion 138 that defines recess 114 to receive nozzle block 22. Mold 132 is set upon a flat surface, and impact pad 70 is ~~dispose~~ disposed within mold 132 at a predetermined position relative to mold portion 138. As indicated above, impact pad 70 may be a pre-formed component, or may be assembled in situ within mold 132.